

# Salem Power Plant Revitalization Task Force Meeting: Draft Minutes

Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Winter Island Function Hall

50 Winter Island Road, Salem, MA

## **Members in Attendance:**

Secretary Richard K. Sullivan	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Chair
Paul Stakutis	Designee, Attorney General Martha Coakley
Rebecca Sullivan	Designee, MassDevelopment
Ron Gerwatowoski	Deputy General Counsel, National Grid
Dan Dolan	President, New England Power Generators Association
James Simpson	Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local 326
Kimberly Driscoll	Mayor, City of Salem
John Keenan	Massachusetts House of Representatives
Michael Knapik	Massachusetts Senate

## **Members Absent:**

Ken Kimmel	Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protections
Gregory Bialecki	Secretary of Housing and Economic Development
Marty Jones	President and CEO, MassDevelopment

Secretary Sullivan called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

## **Others in Attendance:**

Sean Navin	EEA
Chris Eicher	Committee on Telecomm, Utilities and Energy
Liam Holland	Committee on Telecomm, Utilities and Energy
Marcia McClary	Footprint Energy
Joan Lovely	City of Salem
Gary Moran	MassDEP
Eric Worrall	MassDEP
Barbara Kates-Garnick	EEA

Gary Davis	EEA
Krista Selmi	EEA
Steven Clarke	EEA
Nancy Kaplan	MassDEP
Grace Harrington	Rep. Keenan's Office
George Chapman	Committee on Telecomm, Utilities and Energy
Marty Nastasia	Brown Rudnick

### **Welcome from Secretary Sullivan**

Secretary Sullivan welcomed Task Force Board Members and attendees and recognized the role that the Energy Bill has had in enabling the Salem Power Plant Revitalization Task Force to convene and the personal commitment of Representative John Keenan to make it happen in a timely fashion. The Secretary requested that Task Force members sign sheet indicating familiarity with requirements of open meeting law. He thanked Footprint Power for providing tour of the plant site.

### **Introductions**

Mayor of Salem, Kimberly Driscoll acknowledged the opportunities, challenges and new perspective posed by the thoughtful development ideas that Footprint put forth for the Salem Power Plant. Mayor Driscoll reiterated how important the redevelopment of the power plant is to create a cleaner community in Salem. Mayor Driscoll also recognized the importance of the \$4.7 million dollars in taxes the Salem Power Plant contributes to the community every year.

Representative Keenan expressed his appreciation for the Secretary's personal commitment to assemble the task force. Representative Keenan expressed how critical the task force is to the city and regional economic development. He also expressed his appreciation for Footprint's transparency and willingness to cooperate with communities in its plans to redevelop the power plant.

Secretary Sullivan addressed the amount of negotiation and support required for such revitalization and reiterates the important of Representative Keenan's drive to keep the process moving in a forward direction. Secretary Sullivan also looked to hold similar meetings regarding the coal fired power plants in Holyoke and Somerset.

### **Overview of Task Force Discussion**

Secretary Sullivan indicated that the legislation has established three takeaways for the taskforce. The first relates to the remediation and demolition of the site. The cleanup should not be the responsibility of the city or state and that one of the main tasks is to establish a clear handle on which players have what responsibility in terms of legal responsibilities and existing commitments. The second take away is to establish the tools that the state and city have in order to implement their vision for the site. The third requirement of the legislation is for the taskforce to develop an approach to decommissioning

other facilities similar to the Salem Power Plant. Establishing a legislative protocol through the task force would eliminate the need for another taskforce for a similar facility in the future.

### Subcommittees

The Secretary suggested three subcommittees to address the goals and objectives that the Task Force has to accomplish: (1) one to deal with demolition and remediation of the site; (2) one to deal with redevelopment; and (3) one to provide language to the legislature for decommissioning of coal plants throughout the commonwealth.

Secretary Sullivan suggested task members consider in which subcommittee they would best serve and that individuals could serve on multiple subcommittees. He hoped that elected officials and their staffs might serve as chairs of the subcommittees. He reminded members that no staff or resources have been officially allocated to run the task force. However, he committed staff from DOER, EEA, and DEP would be present at the meetings in order to provide their expertise appropriately. Undersecretary Kates-Garnick requested Task Force members email her to indicate on which they would like to serve. Representative Keenan expressed his appreciation for the Secretary's personal commitment to assemble the task force. Keenan indicated how critical the task force is to the city and regional economic development. He also expressed his appreciation for Footprint's transparency and willingness to cooperate with communities in its plans to redevelop the power plant.

One of the subcommittees would be delegated the responsibility of determining legal responsibility of remediation to prior and present owners. The subcommittee for redevelopment would handle all permitting issues related to on site demolition and redevelopment. Gary Moran of MassDep suggested that the DEP would be a staff resource in this area. The representative from National Grid, Ronald Gerwatowski, inquired how Footprint Power will be integrated in this effort.

It was also suggested that there be a subcommittee to seek out best practices in other states in comparable situations; however, James Simpson from IBEW Local 326 reminded the task force that such comparisons will be hard to come by. Dan Dolan from the New England Power Generation Association indicated that a plant in Virginia could provide examples of lessons learned. The Attorney General's representative asked whether Virginia had decommissioning legislation. Mayor Driscoll indicated that Baltimore also has had experience in similar activities.

### Timeline

The task force must prepare a report on its findings to legislators by June 15, 2013. Representative Keenan suggested that the subcommittees do the bulk of the work and the entire taskforce would convene bi-monthly. Secretary Sullivan indicated that some of the larger meetings will be held in locations that currently have coal plants. The subcommittees will meet twice a month. Marcia McClary from FootprintPower indicated that the research on the environmental degradation of the site should be completed by Tetra Tech in approximately six months.

Secretary Sullivan requested that Mayor Driscoll and her team to prepare a presentation for the taskforce on their vision for the redevelopment of the Salem Power Plant site. This presentation is to take place at the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 4:10 pm

